

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 14 are canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-19 are pending in this application. No new matter is added. The features in the claims are present in the originally filed specification.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

The Office Action states on page 2 that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,690,920 ('920) to Richbourg. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants submit that Richbourg does not teach the feature of claim 1 that the shaft has at least one pocket within the shaft and a spring is located in the pocket. Simply stated, the claims as previously amended state that the shaft itself has a pocket within the shaft in which a spring is located. In stark contrast to the present claimed invention, in the Richbourg reference, only a small portion of a leg of a spring 43 is present at location 44 located on the shaft 11. It is submitted that the portion of the rod or shaft 11 where the spring leg is located is not a pocket. As stated above, in the present invention as claimed there is a pocket within the shaft and a spring located in the claimed pocket. Applicants hereby argue that the inclusion of a portion of a spring leg of spring 43 in the shaft 11 does not meet the requirement that there be a spring in a pocket whereby the pocket is within the shaft.

As the cited reference fails to teach at least one feature in the claims as amended, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejections of the claims.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection of Claim 6 over Richbourg in view of Womer

The Office Action on page 3 states that claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 2,690,920 to Richbourg in view of U.S. Patent 2,803,956 to Womer. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Office Action states the Womer patent is cited for its alleged teaching of a lock plug having opposed protuberances to provide for key actuation on the button of Richbourg. As applicants note that the Womer reference was cited for the above described teaching, applicants respectfully submit that the Womer reference still does not teach the claimed feature which is lacking in the Richbourg reference which is namely a pocket within the shaft and a spring located in the pocket.

It is submitted that the Womer reference does not provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill to provide a pocket within the shaft of Richbourg and a spring within said pocket. Therefore, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claim 7 over Richbourg in view of Miller

The Office Action on page 3 states that claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 2,690,920 to Richbourg in view of U.S. Patent 3,220,759 to Miller. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Office Action states the Miller patent is cited for its alleged teaching of a monolithic shaft. As applicants note that the Miller reference was cited for the above described teaching, applicants respectfully submit that the Miller reference still does not teach the claimed feature which is lacking in the Richbourg reference which is namely a pocket within the shaft and a spring located in the pocket.

It is submitted that the Miller reference does not provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill to provide a pocket within the shaft of Richbourg and a spring within said pocket. Therefore, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claim 11 over Richbourg in view of Dickinson

The Office Action on page 3 states that claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 2,690,920 to Richbourg in view of U.S. Patent 6,085,928 to Dickinson. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Office Action states the Dickinson patent is cited for its alleged teaching of a snap connection between a bezel and a shaft. As applicants note that the Dickinson reference was cited for the above described teaching, applicants respectfully submit that the Dickinson reference still does not teach the claimed feature which is lacking in the Richbourg reference which is namely a pocket within the shaft and a spring located in the pocket.

It is submitted that the Dickinson reference does not provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill to provide a pocket within the shaft of Richbourg and a spring within said pocket. Therefore, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection.

**35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claim 12 over Richbourg in view of Dickinson
and further in view of Fountaine**

The Office Action on page 4 states that claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above cited combination of U.S. Patent 2,690,920 to Richbourg in view of U.S. Patent 6,085,928 to Dickinson as applied to claim 11 and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,901,501 to Fountaine. Applicants respectfully traverse the

rejection. The Office Action states the Fountaine patent is cited for its alleged teaching of a flat portion on the bezel which provides a detent position during rotation of the shaft. As applicants note that the Fountaine reference was cited for the above described teaching, applicants respectfully submit that the Fountaine reference still does not teach the claimed feature which is lacking in the Richbourg reference which is namely a pocket within the shaft and a spring located in the pocket.

It is submitted that the Fountaine reference does not provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill to provide a pocket within the shaft of Richbourg and a spring within said pocket. Therefore, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection.

**35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 13, 15 and 16 over Richbourg in view of
Dickinson and further in view of Weinerman**

The Office Action on page 4 states that claims 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above cited combination of U.S. Patent 2,690,920 to Richbourg in view of U.S. Patent 6,085,928 to Dickinson and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,718,467 to Weinerman. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Office Action states the Weinerman patent is cited for its alleged teaching of a two part bezel of the snap connection type. As applicants note that the Weinerman reference was cited for the above described teaching, applicants respectfully submit that the Weinerman reference still does not teach the claimed feature which is lacking in the Richbourg reference which is namely a pocket within the shaft and a spring located in the pocket.

It is submitted that the Weinerman reference does not provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill to provide a pocket within the shaft of

Richbourg and a spring within said pocket. Therefore, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claim 17 over Richbourg in view of Dickinson as applied to Claim 11 and further in view of Weinerman

The Office Action on page 4 states that claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above cited combination of U.S. Patent 2,690,920 to Richbourg in view of U.S. Patent 6,085,928 to Dickinson as applied to claim 11 and further in view of U.S. Patent 2,803,956 to Womer. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Office Action states the Womer patent is cited for its alleged teaching of a lock plug having two opposed protuberances which engage ribs to allow or prevent a button from engaging a shaft. As applicants note that the Womer reference was cited for the above described teaching, applicants respectfully submit that the Womer reference still does not teach the claimed feature which is lacking in the Richbourg reference which is namely a pocket within the shaft and a spring located in the pocket.

It is submitted that the Womer reference does not provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill to provide a pocket within the shaft of Richbourg and a spring within said pocket. Therefore, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections.

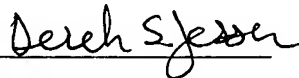
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants' present invention, as recited in the amended claims now more clearly and particularly, is patentable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections in this case is hereby respectfully requested.

If further matters remain in connection with this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative to resolve them.

Respectfully submitted,

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